a long, long time ago...

a jet black monster appeared.

the monster was extremely strong, and moreover it devoured many people.

the troubled people fought with all their might against it, but the monster was too strong and no one could win.

the white samurai and his five companions were exceedingly strong and finally defeated the monster...

just as the people were about to lose hope,

a white samurai and his five companions appeared before the eyes of the people.

BLAZBLUE
CALAMITY TRIGGER
CHIMELICAL COMPLEX

ORIGINAL WORK: ARC SYSTEM WORKS
MANGA: KOBAYAKAWA HARUYOSHI

#04 THE BLACK BEAST

THE 13TH HIERARCHICAL CITY -KAGUTSUCHI-
AREA NO. 19 ORIENT TOWN

...AND SO,

OHHH...

NEOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I THINK I MAY HAVE HEARD IT BEFORE SOMEWHERE, MEOW.

THAT IS HOW THE FAMOUS STORY GOES. IT'S EVEN BEEN MADE INTO A PICTURE BOOK.

EHHH?

ALTHOUGH WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU IS THE ABRIDGED VERSION...

THIS STORY IS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN THE PAST.

TOWN DOCTOR
LITCHI=FAYE=LING

ITS BODY WAS MADE UP OF HIGH DENSITY *SEITHR*, AND IT EXISTED ONLY TO ABSORB LIFE FROM THE LIVING.

THE JET BLACK MONSTER WAS CALLED...

THE BLACK BEAST.

OF COURSE, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE UNDER THE ASSAULT OF THE BLACK BEAST FOUGHT BACK FRANTICALLY.

...HOWEVER, SOON ALL OF THEM HAD FALLEN BEFORE ITS TEETH.

?

?

AB-ZORB?

SEE-TER?

AT THAT TIME, THE ONES WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED WERE...

THE WHITE SAMURAI AND HIS FIVE COMPANIONS.

THEY'RE NOW KNOWN AS THE *SIX HEROES.*

HMM-MMM.

THEY USED SEITHR AS A CATALYST TO COMPLETE *ARMAGUS* FOR THE PEOPLE TO USE.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT USING THE ENERGY FROM THE BLACK BEAST ITSELF TO POWER THE WEAPONS WAS SUCH AN INSPIRING IDEA?

AND THEN, WITH THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE 6 HEROES AND THE POWER OF ARMAGUS,
HUMANITY FINALLY TRIUMPHED OVER THE BLACK BEAST AND DEFEATED IT.
...YES.
Are you even listening...?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT,
BUT THAT'S AWESO-ME, MEOW!
...HOWEVER.
HURRAY, MEOW! AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
Oh!

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BLACK BEAST RELEASED A LARGE AMOUNT OF SEITHR THAT COVERED THE WORLD.

MEW?

IF THERE'S LOTS OF SEITHR, DOES SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN?

THE BLACK BEAST'S SEITHR, WHICH ABSORBS THE LIFE FORCE OF LIVING CREATURES, HAD BEEN SPREAD ALL OVER.

IN SMALL QUANTITIES, SEITHR IS HARMLESS. HOWEVER PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO LARGE DOSES WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON LIVING CREATURES.

BECAUSE OF THE CONSTANT HIGH LEVELS OF SEITHR, THE ECOSYSTEM UNDERWENT CHANGES.

THE ONCE NATURAL WORLD STARTED SHOWING THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SEITHR EXPO-SURE...

AND THAT IS THE REASON WHY THE BLACK BEAST WAS SUCH A FEARSOME CREA-TURE.

EHHH HHH...

...??

EVEN NOW, THERE ARE SIGHTINGS OF STRANGE CREATURES ON THE GROUND, WHICH IS OVERFLOWING WITH SEITHR.

ORAAAAAAAAAA!!

BUT NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO US, RIGHT?

... HUH? TAO AND EVERYONE IN THE KAKA VILLAGE STAY ON THE GROUND, RIGHT, MEOW?

TAO AND THE REST OF THE KAKA CLAN... HAVE A NATU-RALLY HIGH RESISTANCE AGAINST SEITHR.

... THAT'S RIGHT.

... UMMM? SEEE-TER... IN OTHER WORDS, ERM...

IT'S BEEN ATTACKING TAO'S VILLAGE AND EATING SOME OF THE KITTENS, MEOW!

THEN .. WHAT ABOUT THE BLACK SQUIGGLY, MEOW?

うね うね

WELL, ABOUT THAT... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

... I SEE.

AND NOW LIVE IN *HIERARCHICAL CITIES.*
PRESENTLY, TO ESCAPE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SEITHR, HUMANITY MOVED TO HIGHER LOCATIONS...
THESE HIERARCHICAL CITIES AND THE ARMAGUS THAT MAKE USE OF SEITHR
HAVE BECOME INDISPENSIBLE TO THE HUMANITY OF TODAY.

THE INVENTION OF ARMAGUS WAS HERALDED AS THE GREATEST DIS-COVERY OF THE CENTURY.

AND THE WISE PERSON WHO RESCUED THE WORLD WITH HER INVENTION WAS ONE OF THE SIX HEROES THAT AIDED HUMANITY...

HM?

IT'S A TECHNIQUE THAT RUNS ON SEITHR TO GENERATE LARGE AMOUNTS OF POWER.

I just said that a little while back.

WHAT IS THIS ARM MAGIC THINGY...?

... LEEET'S SEE.

WAS TODAY'S LESSON TOO DIFFICULT TO UNDER-STAND...?

T-TAO... IS EVERY-THING OKAY?

WHA!?

Don't play with the book.

AND THEN THE ARMAGUS WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WAS...

..... MEOW?

..... UM...

KNOWN AS THE *AZURE GRIMOIRE.*

TAO!!?

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU COUNTLESS TIMES: IT'S NOT BOOBIE LADY, IT'S LITCHI...

BOOBIE LADY'S EXPLANATION HAS BEEN ALL GIBBER-ISH FOR A WHILE TO MEEEEOW!!

NOOO MOREEEE, MEOW !!!

Then why did you tell me all that, meoow!

UH... YOU KNOW, TAO, GRIMOIRES AREN'T ALWAYS IN THE SHAPE OF A BOOK.

AND IF TAO BECOMES STRONG, WILL TAO BECOME A VIGILANTE !?

AND SO WHAT ABOUT IT, MEOW!? IF I READ THAT GRIMOIRE, WILL I BECOME STRONG, MEOW!?

WILL IT BE THE SAME?

... OR PERHAPS...

... THIS TIME, AS WELL.

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

OH, MY.

"...DON'T EVER MISTAKE THE BLAZBLUE'S POWER AS YOUR OWN."

...I...

WITH THIS POWER...

MY POWER...

THE MORE THEY KNOW ABOUT IT...

THERE ARE NO EXCUSES.

JUST THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LIBRARY.

YOU WOULD KNOW, WOULDN'T YOU!?

JIN... AND SAYA... WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

I GUESS

IT'D BE BETTER IF THEY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ITS EXISTENCE...

WHAT DO YA THINK YA OUGHT TO DO?

... YEAH.

IN THAT CASE,

IS THAT ALL?

WISH TO CLAIM BACK ALL THAT WAS LOST TO YA?

DESTROY EVERYTHING?

MASTER
...

...
I
DON'T
KNOW.

...A MERE SHADOW OF YOUR FORMER SELF, HUH.
...DAMMIT, WHY THE HELL IS EVERY-ONE...
GII-HYA HYA-HAHAHAAHAAHA HAHAAAAH HHHAA HA AHHHA HA AHAHA HAHA HAHAH AHAHA
AZURE ...!
HAND OVER TH AZUU U UUUUUU UU UUUR EEEEE!
KUHH...
KEHTAHTA-HYAHTA-HYAHTA!!!

ALWAYS MESSING WITH THE BOUNDARY.....!!

A URE

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AZURE

AZ RE

THAT'S EXACTLY THE SAME PHENOMENON AS *THE BLACK BEAST!*
HE TRIED TO COMBINE THE AZURE GRIMOIRE AND THE BLACK BEAST!

WITHIN THE HIERARCHICAL CITY, HEADING TOWARDS THE VARIOUS EXPECTATIONS INSIDE.

27

HURRY, I WANT TO SEE YOU, BROTHER...

WRONG! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I SAY IT BEFORE IT GETS THROUGH YER THICK SKULL!?

DON'T MISTAKE THE BLAZBLUE AS YOUR OWN POWER!

I KNOW THAT ALREADY, DAMMIT!

THAT THING'S ALREADY A PART OF YOU...

LISTEN. TRY TO SENSE THE ARMAGUS NATURALLY.

DURING THE *DARK WAR*, ONE OF THE SIX HEROES CALLED NINE CREATED THESE ARMAMENTS...

THAT'S RIGHT. GRIMOIRES FASHIONED INTO THE SHAPE OF WEAPONS... I GUESS YOU COULD THINK OF IT THAT WAY...

NOX NYCTORES?

ARMAGUS, GRIMOIRE, NOX NYCTORES, AND THE BOUNDARY'S POWER...?

HAA-H

HAH...

HA

2

--NO... I GUESS YOU OUGHTA PERCEIVE IT BY YERSELF.

THE BLAZBLUE IS AKIN TO THE CIRCLE OF LIFE...

...SO YA FINALLY GRASPED THE BASICS OF ARMAGUS, HUH?

ONE DAY, YOU'LL HAVE TA COME FACE TA FACE WITH IT, AND THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.

HA AH

HA...

... HUH?

AND THEN...

THERE'S THE ***BOUND-ARY.***

...WELL, IT'S HONESTLY NOT MY SPECIALTY, EITHER.

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE,

MR. ONE-EYED LOTUS.

BLAZBLUE

CHRONO PHANTASMA

#05 NOEL=VERMILLION

ORIGINAL WORK ARC SYSTEM WORKS

MANGA KOBAYAKAWA HARUYOSHI

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A URE!
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GALINT-
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AZU E!
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I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST YOU, BUT...
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AAH
A URE
ZU E
...AH
...
WANT...
UU
U
UU
U

THE VERY LEAST I CAN DO
IS TO PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY.

...
WAIT!!

I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PERSON!

SO, PLEASE!

DON'T KILL HIM NOW...!

WHY IS EVERYONE ALWAYS MESSING WITH THE BOUNDARY!!!?

...
THIS FEELING.

YOU, TOO...?

I THOUGHT YOU'D AT LEAST KNOW THAT MUCH...

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR HIM.

...
HEY, YOU.

THERE HAS TO BE *SOMETHING* THAT CAN BE DONE...!

...
I KNOW.

BUT... SOME-HOW...!

YOU *DO* KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS, RIGHT?

...
TCH.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

...
BE-
SIDES!

THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING IS YOU AS WELL!

YOU'RE RAGNA THE BLOD-DEDGE, RIGHT!?

AND YET YOU KNOW *NOTHING* ABOUT THE BLAZ-BLUE!

IS THAT ALL?

TO DESTROY THOSE THINGS THAT COULDN'T BE DESTROYED.

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, I GOT IT!

...
AHHH, GEEZ.

.....

IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SOME SORTA BAD GUY.

DON'T GIMME THAT LOOK.

...

I'M OFF, SO THAT DIRTY RAG IS ALL YOURS.

YEAH, YEAH, FEEL FREE TO THINK WHAT YOU WANT.

...
BUT AREN'T YOU THAT WANTED CRIMINAL?

...wait, is he living trash?

IF YOU'RE GONNA THROW HIM AWAY MAKE SURE YOU DO IT ON THE FLAM-MABLE TRASH DAY.

YOU'RE PRETTY NICE.

... THANK YOU.

... SAVE IT...

EXCUSE ME,

BUT MIGHT YOU BE LIEU-TENANT NOEL VERMILLION BY ANY CHANCE?

Hah

Ha

YES... IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU...

I HAVE ORDERS FROM THE HIGHER COMMAND TO BRIEF YOU ON THE CURRENT SITUATION.

I'M HAZAMA FROM THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT.

AH, YES, THAT'S ME...

Greetings, greetings

HIS DESERTION IS BEING TREATED WITH THE UTMOST SECRECY AT THE MOMENT.

FIRSTLY, ABOUT YOUR MISSION... CONCERNING THE SEARCH AND RETRIEVAL OF MAJOR KISARAGI.

MAJOR KISARAGI ...

QUITE FRANKLY, THIS SUDDEN STATE OF AFFAIRS DOES NOT FILL US WITH OPTIMISM.

FOR THE "HERO OF IKARUGA" TO SUDDENLY ABANDON HIS POST AND MOVE ON HIS OWN...

AND FOLLOWING THAT, A LEVEL D ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR THE HIERACHICAL CITY OF KAGUTSUCHI...

ON AN UNRELATED NOTE IT SEEMS A FAIR NUMBER OF VIGILANTES HAVE GATHERED IN THE CITY AS WELL.

IT APPEARS THAT NEWS OF THE GRIM REAPER'S APPEARANCE HERE HAS TRIGGERED THEIR ARRIVAL, PRESUMABLY FOR THE BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD...

SECTOR SEVEN.

WHY THEY HAVE INFILTRATED KAGUTSUCHI IS UNKNOWN FOR NOW...

BUT THEIR REASON FOR BEING HERE IS DEFINITELY NOT FOR LEISURE.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US, BUT... THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT OBSTRUCT YOU IN YOUR MISSION.

AND THEN OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM...

ふぅ

..
IS THERE A POSS BIL-ITY
THAT THE MAJOR'S DESERTION IS RELATED TO SECTOR SEVEN SOMEHOW...?
IS SOME-THING WRONG, LIEUTEN-ANT?
?
I HOPE YOU'RE PLAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL TH S...
AND THERE'S ALSO THE PART ABOUT IKARUGA, TOO...
...
YES.
REALLY...
IF WE ALL WERE TO STOP USING ARMAGUS,
THEN THE WORLD WE HAVE NOW WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN BUILT.
17

WELL THEN, I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE HERE...

AH, NO. PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY I'LL BE INFIL-TRATING THE CITY.

ONE MORE THING.

ABOUT MAJOR KISARAGI'S NOX NYCTO-RES...

...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

t... t... t... t... t... t... t...

THERE IS THIS UNPLEASANT FEELING IN MY CHEST...

TO SAY SUCH A THING SO CASUALLY...

...

WHAT WAS THAT?

JUST WHERE DID YOU...

MAJOR...

たっ

たっ

KYAAAAA

ゴロ…ゴロ…

AAAAAAAAH

I WAS DISTRACTED FOR A MOMENT, AND..

!!

...AH... I... I'M SO SORRY!

ぱい

TH... THIS MAN IS!?
WH-...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
THAT UNI-FORM...
A SOLDIER OF THE LIBRAR-IUM?

THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE FROM SECTOR SEVEN WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

NO...

THE LIBARIUM HAS ALREADY ISSUED A LEVEL D ALERT.

...MY BUSINESS HERE HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE ***RED DEVIL*** FROM SECTOR SEVEN.

...

OH?

YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

YOU MUST LEAVE HERE AT ONCE...!

...BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, A LEVEL D WARNING MEANS THE ANTI-INTERVENTION ACT IS IN EFFECT!

WE AT SECTOR SEVEN DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM THE LIBRARY.
... UNFOR- TU- NATELY,
...
I SEE.
... IN THAT CASE,

BUT TO DETAIN YOU...

I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE

I DISLIKE FIGHTING POINTLESS BATTLES, BUT...

...

HAVE YOU ACTUALLY SEEN IT BEFORE WITH YOUR OWN EYES?

ABOUT MAJOR KISARAGI'S NOX NYCTO-RES.

... THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S THE SAME AS THAT THING OF YOURS.

THE WIELDER'S SPIRIT UNDER-GOES SOME SORT OF INFLUENCE WHEN USING IT...

MUCRO ALGESCO ***YUKIANESA*** ...RIGHT?

I HAVEN'T, BECAUSE IT'S CURRENTLY KEPT AT...

THAT'LL BE ENOUGH. ...IN ANY CASE,

ソナだ

AS EXPECTED, ONLY SOMETHING CREATED DURING THE ***DARK WAR*** WOULD HAVE THAT SORT OF EFFECT.

ソナだ

...

!!

AND ALSO REMOVES ALL FEELINGS OF GUILT AND OTHER UNNECESSARY EMOTIONS DURING BATTLE.

ONE OF THE REMARKABLE SIDE-EFFECTS IS THAT IT SURPRESSES FEAR,

...
YES...

...UM.

FOR THAT REASON... SINCE YOUR TARGET IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE HERO OF IKARUGA,

YOU SHOULDN'T HOLD BACK ON YOUR ATTACKS.

I THOUGHT THAT INFOR-MATION WAS CLASSIFIED...

HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE NOX NYCTORES?

!!

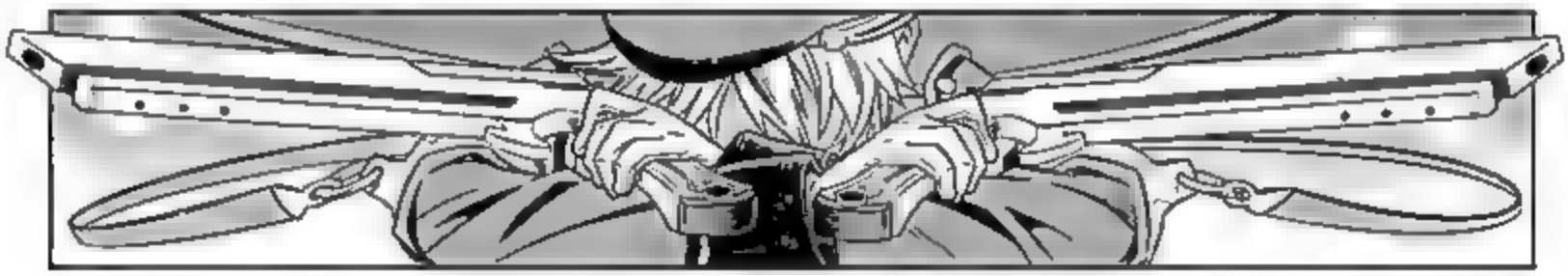
IN ANY CASE, PLEASE HURRY TO THE REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE LIBARIUM.

WELL... WE *ARE* THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT, AFTER ALL...

BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET MISSION... I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP MUCH IF WE STAY HERE.

REGIONAL... BRANCH?

I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU THERE...



THE HELPLESS LIEUTENANT SUDDENLY CHANGES!?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THE NOX NYCTORES...?

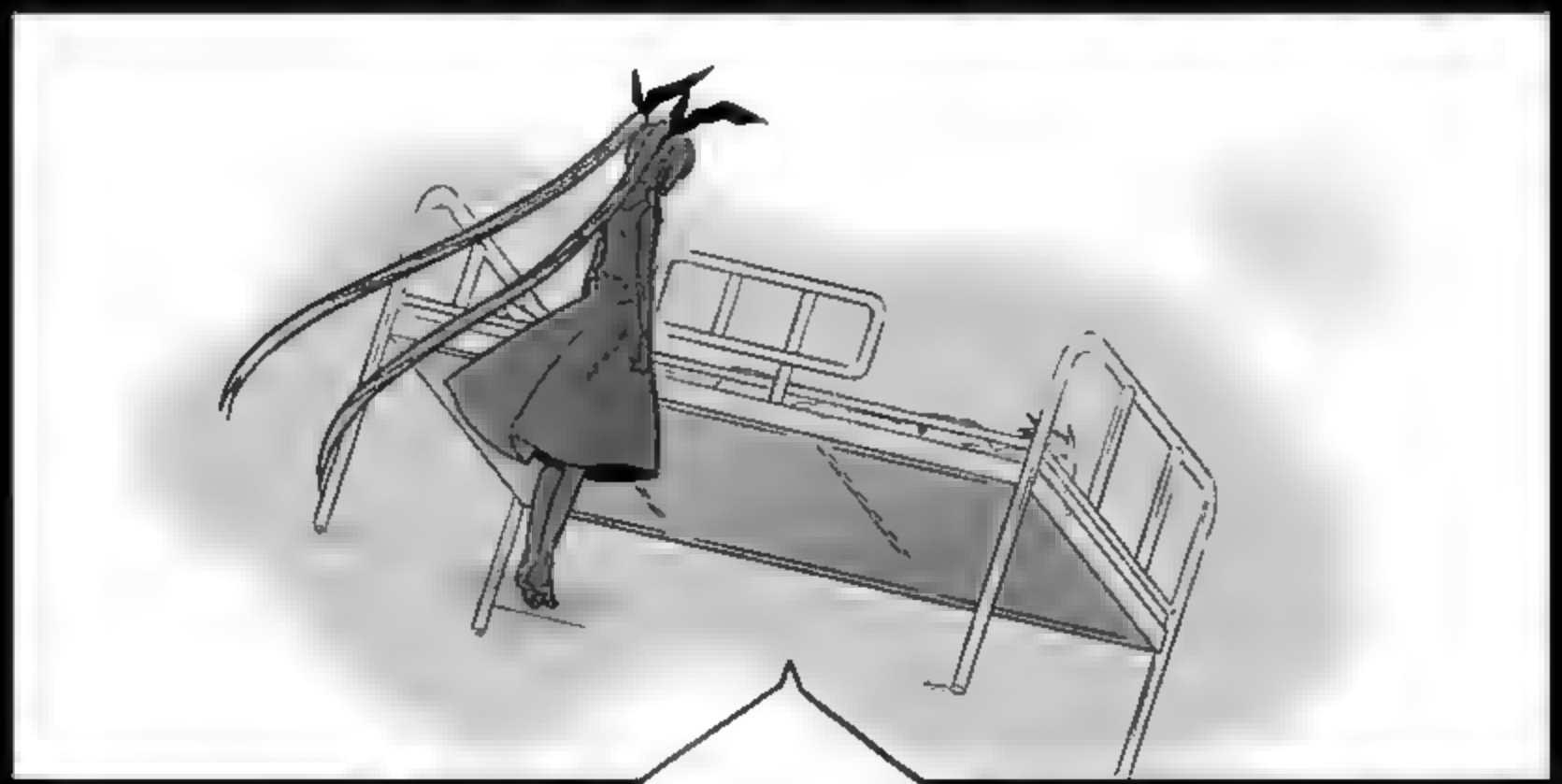
AD2194

DUE TO THIS INCIDENT, THE FIFTH HIERARCHICAL CITY, IBUKIDO, IS NOW IN SHAMBLES.

AN UNKNOWN EXPLOSION OCCURRED WITHIN THE CURRENTLY WARRING IKARUGA FEDERATION.

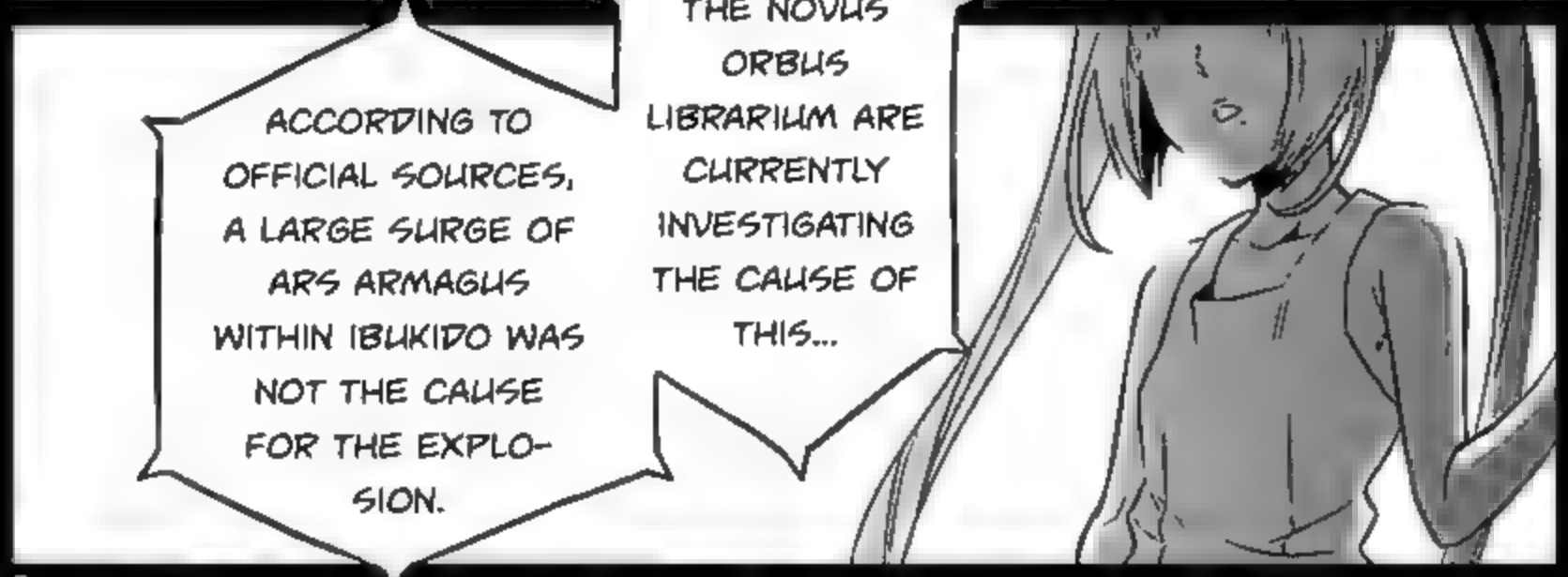
NEIGHBORING HIERARCHICAL CITIES ARE ALSO EXPERIENCING SEVERE DAMAGE...

NOEL VERMILLION--HER PAST AND IRREPLACEABLE WEAPONS



THE NOVUS ORBUS LIBRARIUM ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THIS...

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SOURCES, A LARGE SURGE OF ARS ARMAGUS WITHIN IBUKIDO WAS NOT THE CAUSE FOR THE EXPLO-SION.



WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU ARE NOT ME

THE IKARUGA FEDERATION HAVE OFFERED A TRUCE BECAUSE OF THE INDICENT,

BUT THE LIBRARIUM HAS NOT GIVEN A DEFINITE RESPONSE.

FURTHERMORE, RESCUE WORK IS BEING DONE BY THE LIBRARIUM'S SIXTH DIVI-SION...

BLAZBLUE
ORIGINAL WORK ARC SYSTEM WORKS
MANGAKA JKOBAYAKAWA HARUYOSHI
#06 NOX NYCTORES

THIS HIGH ENERGY RESPONSE IS...!?
WHY CAN THIS GIRL USE SO MUCH...?

...
TAGER.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

KOKO-NOE?

SORRY.. I'M IN THE M DDLE OF SOME-THING RIGHT NOW.

I'VE LOOKED AT THE POINT OF ARRIVAL.

GO TO THE COORDI-NATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

...
UNDER-STOOD.

ドン
ドン
ドン
QUIT PLAYING AROUND AND DEAL WITH THE LIBRARY ALREADY!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, TAGER!?
SHE'S NOT IN THE...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS POWER...?
!?
!?
YOU ORDER TOO MUCH FROM ME...
... HONESTLY
ズズ
11

I TAKE MY LEAVE...!

... I THINK IT'S TIME

HUH !?

THREAT LEVEL DECREASED TO C MINUS.

I WON... DIDN'T I?

H-HUH...?

I... I....

WH...

WHERE'S THE RED DEVIL!?

THAT'S BECAUSE WHEN I'M FIGHTING, IT'S NOT REALLY *ME* FIGHTING.

IT'S ***BOLVERK*** THAT DOES IT.

WHEN I'M FIGHTING, I DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING.

...BUT... SOMETIMES I WONDER... IS IT MY WILL THAT MOVES ME?

THAT'S WHY BOLVERK IS SO IMPORTANT TO ME.

I'D BE PRETTY USELESS IF I DIDN'T HAVE IT.

AM... AM I REALLY MYSELF RIGHT NOW?

IT'S THE SAME AS THAT THING OF YOURS.

THE WIELDER'S SPIRIT UNDERGOES SOME SORT OF INFLUENCE WHEN USING IT...

I NEED TO HURRY TO THE BRANCH!

AH! ...

JUST WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY?

THE NOX NYCTO-RES...

...IN SHORT, ANY ORDINARY PERSON COULD ALSO USE THE SIMPLIFIED FORM OF SORCERY CALLED *ARS MAGUS*...

YES... THE NOL WAS MADE FOR THAT REASON.

ARE YOU OKAY, NOEL? DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

HMM, I SEE.

SO THEN, THE NOL MANAGES THEM ALL BECAUSE IT'D BE DANGEROUS FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE ONE, RIGHT?

GRIMOIRES ARE NEEDED IN ORDER TO USE ARS MAGUS.

EVEN THOUGH WE MAY JUST SAY IT'S DANGEROUS AND LEAVE IT AT THAT, THERE ARE ACTUALLY RANKINGS FOR GRIMOIRES.

THERE ARE VARIOUS KINDS, FROM DANGEROUS TO SAFE.

Y... YEAH.

I THINK SO.

FURTHERMORE... THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER CLASS OF WEAPON THAT DOESN'T FIT IN INTO ANY OTHER CATEGORY.

THE CAUSALITY WEAPONS KNOWN AS THE ***NOX NYCTORES.***

ORIGINALLY, THE GRIMOIRES WERE ONLY MADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF FIGHTING THE ***BLACK BEAST.***

HOWEVER, THE NOX NYCTORES WERE CREATED SPECIFICALLY TO COMBAT AGAINST THE BLACK BEAST.

THERE ARE NO DETAILED RECORDS OF THEM... HONESTLY, IT'S NOT SURE IF THE WEAPONS EVEN EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HOWEVER, THERE'S RUMORS THAT THE SIX HEROES THEMSELVES USED THE WEAPONS, BUT EVEN THAT IS...

THERE ARE TEN IN TOTAL, BUT THERE ARE DIFFERENT THEORIES CONCERNING THEIR ORIGIN.

THE GUNS THAT I USE, BOLVERK...

THEY'RE ALSO A NOX NYCTORES CLASS WEAPON...

AT THAT MOMENT, BOLVERK SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE ME.

I WAS ATTACKED BY A MONSTER IN THE FOREST I ALWAYS PLAYED IN.

IT WAS SOMETIME AFTER I HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BY HOUSE VERMILLION.

AH... SORRY...

...EH?

ARE YOU LISTENING, NOEL?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY WAS I...

IN CONCLUSION...

BACK THEN, I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT MUCH, BUT...

NOEL, IF YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO USE ARMAGUS AND IMPROVE YOUR GRADES, THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO SCATTER-BRAINED WHEN TAKING NOTES.

IS THAT TRUE?

That's what I said...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TALK TO THEM ABOUT THIS...

Ahaha

I WAS JUST REALLY FOCUSED...

SO, UH...

...I WONDER. I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE MYSELF, SO...

LIKE USING IT ON A MOUNTAIN WILL MAKE IT *BLOW UP*, OR MAYBE A CITY COULD BE VAPOR-IZED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

Ahhhh~

BUT HEY, THESE NOX NYCTORES ARE PRETTY POWERFUL, RIGHT?

SORRY... NOEL, MAKOTO. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

JIN!

TSUBAKI,

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

Y-YES... WHAT DID YOU NEED?

SORRY!

HAVE A SAFE TRIP!

AH... YEAH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, TSUBAKI.

ABOUT THESE DOCUMENTS FROM THE OTHER DAY...

ARE YOU OKAY!?

MAJOR!!

MAJOR KISARAGI!!

OH, GOOD! WHAT PERFECT TIMING!

COULD THIS HAVE BEEN DONE BY RAGNA THE BLOODEDGE?

HE'S UNCON-CIOUS...

MORE-OVER, THESE WOUNDS...

P... PERFECT TIMING...?

WELL THEN, IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THE MISSION IS COMPLETE...

...HAZAMA!

...LIEUTEN-ANT.

ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS?

IF WE WERE A LITTLE LATE,

MAJOR WOULD HAVE...!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE FOR *TWO* PEOPLE.

...

YOU?

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP MAJOR KISARAGI AFTER HE GOES OUT OF CONTROL?

RAGNA THE BLOODEDGE WAS PROBABLY ALREADY HERE.

EVEN MORE SO IF IT'S SOMETHING EVEN THE MAJOR COULDN'T DEFEAT...

I HAVE TO SAY THAT THIS SITUATION IS *QUITE* CONVENIENT.

BECAUSE MY MISSION IS TO CAPTURE MAJOR JIN KISARAGI, RAGNA THE BLOODEDGE DOESN'T MATTER.

... BUT...!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, LIEUTENANT VERMILLION?

...

HAZAMA, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE MAJOR!

I... I'LL GO AFTER RAGNA THE BLOODEDGE, WHO I THINK WENT INSIDE!

...OH, IS THAT SO?

WELL, IF IT'S YOUR *MISSION*, THEN I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

MY OTHER MISSION IS TO CAPTURE RAGNA!

THEN I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

...I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE HERE.

BUT EVER SINCE I CAME TO THE BRANCH, UNTIL REACHING THIS CATHEDRAL...

THERE'S NO WAY HAZAMA COULDN'T HAVE NOTICED IT.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF NOBODY BEING AT AN NOL BRANCH BEFORE.

IF I LEAVE RAGNA ALONE, THE SITUATION WILL ONLY LEAD TO EVEN MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS...!

...COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T NOTICE BEFORE...

WHY IN THE WORLD DID HE...?

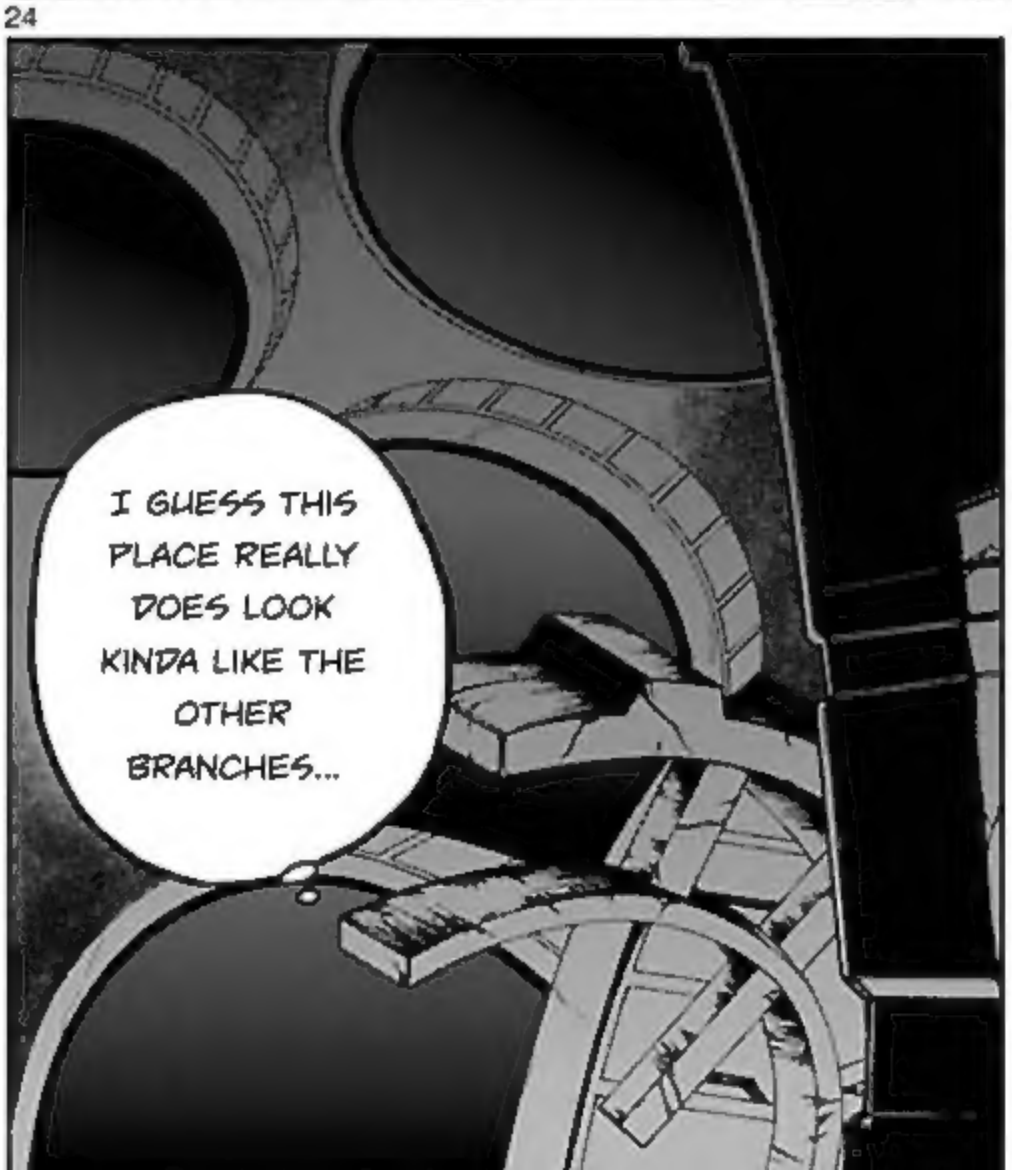
YOU SEEM TO BE WORKING HARD, MISS NOEL.

...HEHEHE.

IF YOU DON'T TRY HARDER,

I'LL BE IN TROUBLE.

...WELL.


I GUESS THIS PLACE REALLY DOES LOOK KINDA LIKE THE OTHER BRANCHES...

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS TAKING TOO LONG...
IT FINALLY STOPPED.

...NOW THEN...

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ドクン

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25

SO YOU'VE ARRIVED ...

DARK ONE.

THE ONE WHO WILL DESTROY YOU.

THE BLACK GRIM REAPER AND THE WHITE HERO...

DARK ONE.

YOU...

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...?